

ILRI East and Southeast Asia newsletter

Issue 1, January–June 2017

Highlights: Vietnam launches report on better managing risks to food safety

Food Safety Risk Management in Vietnam: Challenges and opportunities was launched on 27 March 2017 in Hanoi. The launching workshop was chaired by Vietnam Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam.

The report includes an urgent call for better management of food safety issues in Vietnam and more effective communications to raise public awareness of food safety issues. The report includes an urgent call for

Nguyen Viet Hung, regional representative of ILRI East and Southeast Asia presented key research findings at the meeting. The report found that the primary cause of

food-borne illness in Vietnam comes from bacterial rather than chemical contamination and that both kinds of contamination can be prevented by effecting higher levels of food hygiene throughout the country's food value chains.

Among the biggest challenges to ensuring safe food are the changing practices of millions of small food producers throughout the country. The authors stress that although Vietnam has a modern food safety regulatory framework in place, more results-focused and risk-based approaches are required for further improving the country's food safety.

Deputy Prime Minister recommended taking up the report evidences and recommendations for food safety management in Vietnam.



Welcome to the second edition of ILRI East and Southeast Asia newsletter!

We hope to share a newsletter with you every six months to give you, our donors, partners and colleagues timely updates on ILRI's ongoing research activities, news and events in the region. I hope you will enjoy reading it and thank you for supporting ILRI East and Southeast Asia over the past years and in future.

Learn more about our work at www.asia.ilri.org. If you have any feedback please contact ilri-vietnam@cgiar.org.

Hung Nguyen-Viet
ILRI regional representative
for East and Southeast Asia



Vietnam Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam (standing) speaks at the launch of a World Bank food safety report (photo credit: ILRI/Chi Nguyen).

Project news

Phase 2 of CGIAR Research Programs (CRP) launched

ILRI leads the Livestock Agri-Food systems CGIAR Research Program (the Livestock CRP) 2017-2022 that focuses on increasing the productivity and resilience of small-scale livestock systems in sustainable ways, making meat, milk and egg more available and affordable to poor consumers across the developing world.

ILRI participates in the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH CRP) with a focus on maximizing health and nutrition benefits through agricultural practices, interventions and policies while reducing health risks.

PigRISK project team shares findings on improving food safety in pig value chain

The project team reported key results of PigRISK, an ACIAR funded project, with local authorities and partners of Nghe An and Hung Yen provinces including microbiological risk assessment of Salmonella, assessment of heavy metals and antibiotics residue in carcasses and feed, risk factors of contaminations along the value chains; and overall assessment of animal (pig) production and health.



Interactive session in the feedback workshop in Nghe An province, Vietnam (28 April 2017) (photo credit: Vietnam National University of Agriculture).

ILRI East and Southeast Asia staff attend Global Agenda on Sustainable Livestock (GASL) meeting

Held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 8-12 May 2017 the 7th Multi- Stakeholder Partnership meeting of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock brought together more than 250 livestock experts from over 50 countries. ILRI staff from East and Southeast Asia showcased sustainable and innovative livestock solutions at a sharefair.

ILRI Nairobi colleagues visit China

In May, ILRI colleagues from Nairobi met with representatives from the China Agriculture University (Beijing), Huazhong Agriculture University (Wuhan) and Jiangxi Agriculture University (Nanchang) to discuss ongoing projects on mycoplasma and animal source food genetic resistance. They also visited the China-ILRI joint genetics and ruminant disease lab and the China Academy of Agriculture Science (CAAS).

Project on health surveillance of novel respiratory viruses kicks off in Vietnam

A workshop on emerging respiratory virus threats was held 10– 13 April in Hanoi marking the start of a strategic partnership between ILRI, Duke University and the National Institute of Veterinary Research of Vietnam. This project will use a new bioaerosol and pig oral secretion sampling method and molecular analyses to address the transmission of novel respiratory viruses at the human-animal interface in the country.



Gregory Gray (left) from Duke University and other participants spends a half day to visit a pig farm in Bac Giang province, Vietnam (photo credit: Duke University).

Vietnam Institute of Animal Science and ILRI enhance collaboration in livestock research

A meeting between the Vietnam National Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) and the ILRI on 27 June sought to enhance mutual understanding of the livestock research programs and to assess areas where the two organizations can further join up their efforts. Among other areas, the two partners will focus on enhancing smallholder indigenous pig production, animal genetics resources and animal feed and forages.

Exploring ways of uplifting pig farmers' livelihoods

A stakeholder workshop that is part of a nine-month scoping study (October 2016 – June 2017) for the 'Assessing the competitiveness of smallholder pig farming in northwest Vietnam' project, was held on 30 May. The meeting was co-hosted by ILRI and the Vietnam National University of Agriculture (VNUA).



Maize farmers in the northwest of Vietnam (photo credit: ILRI/Jo Cadilhon).

Risk analysis and policy engagement

Hung Nguyen, regional representative of ILRI East and Southeast Asia delivered the keynote address at Global Health Institute (GHI) Conference at Chiang Mai University, Thailand in February. The conference covered various themes including emerging and re-emerging diseases, antimicrobial resistance, application of risk analysis, epidemiological tools and application, food safety and hygiene.

EcoHealth and One Health research in Southeast Asia

Fred Unger, ILRI senior scientist presented the keynote address in the 1st International Conference on One Health at the Brawijaya University, Malang, Indonesia in March. The event was supported by the Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN).



Fred Unger, ILRI senior scientist (blond hair) networks with the dean of Faculty of Vet Medicine, Brawijaya University (fourth from left) and representatives from other universities and institutions in Indonesia (photo credit: Brawijaya University).

Capacity development

PigRISK researchers give training in food safety risk analysis

The course, which was organized in February, at GHI Thailand introduced participants to real-life applications of microbial and chemical risk assessment in food to provide science-based answers to complex food safety issues in a multidisciplinary setting. Dang Xuan Sinh from Hanoi University of Public Health, a researcher with the PigRISK project attended as trainer.



Dang Xuan Sinh (first from left), PigRISK researcher, in a training at GHI, Thailand (photo credit: ILRI).

Training in diagnosing of trichinella and cysticercosis

A one-day training course for 38 trainees from local and national veterinary/health services on sampling methods and diagnoses of *Trichinella* and *Cysticercosis* on pork was facilitated by Fred Unger in support of the CIRAD led and European Union (EU) funded ComAccross Project at the National University of Laos in Vientiane in February.

Proposal writing workshop

In March, Fred Unger also attended a workshop on proposal development and supported two MSc students (one from Vietnam and one from Indonesia) at Veterinary Public Health Centre for Asia Pacific (VPHCAP), Chiang Mai University, Thailand.

A successful defence for MSc student

In May Xuan Nguyen, an MSc student who was working with ILRI in Hanoi defended her thesis on 'Assessment of aflatoxin B1 in maize and awareness of aflatoxins in Son La province, Vietnam'. She was supervised by Hu Suk Lee, a senior scientist at ILRI.

Recent publications

Following are some recent publications of ILRI East and Southeast Asia. To see the full list, please visit our webpage at www.asia.ilri.org

- World Bank, 2017. Vietnam food safety risks management: challenges and opportunities. Hanoi, Vietnam.
- H. Nguyen-Viet, T. T. Tuyet-Hanh, F. Unger, S. Dang-Xuan and D. Grace, 2017: Food safety in Vietnam: where we are at and what we can learn from international experiences. *Infect Dis Poverty*, 6, 39.
- Tuyet-Hanh, T. T., D. X. Sinh, P. D. Phuc, T. T. Ngan, C. Van Tuat, D. Grace, F. Unger and H. Nguyen-Viet, 2017: Exposure assessment of chemical hazards in pork meat, liver, and kidney, and health impact implication in Hung Yen and Nghe An provinces, Vietnam. *International Journal of Public Health*, 62, 75-82.
- Dang-Xuan, S., H. Nguyen-Viet, F. Unger, P. Pham-Duc, D. Grace, N. Tran-Thi, M. Barot, N. Pham-Thi and K. Makita, 2017: Quantitative risk assessment of human salmonellosis in the smallholder pig value chains in urban of Vietnam. *International Journal of Public Health*, 62, 93-102.
- Lee, H. S., N. V. Khong, H. N. Xuan, V. B. Nghia, H. Nguyen-Viet and D. Grace, 2017: Sero-prevalence of specific *Leptospira* serovars in fattening pigs from 5 provinces in Vietnam. *BMC Vet Res*, 13, 125.
- Arief, R. A., K. Hampson, A. Jatikusumah, M. D. Widyastuti, Sunandar, C. Basri, A. A. Putra, I. Willyanto, A. T. Estoepongastie, I. W. Mardiana, I. K. Kesuma, I. P. Sumantra, P. F. Doherty, Jr., M. D. Salman, J. Gilbert and F. Unger, 2017: Corrigendum: Determinants of Vaccination Coverage and Consequences for Rabies Control in Bali, Indonesia. *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, 4, 20.
- Zhao, Y. X., J. Yang, F. H. Lv, X. J. Hu, X. L. Xie, M. Zhang, W. R. Li, M. J. Liu, Y. T. Wang, J. Q. Li, Y. G. Liu, Y. L. Ren, F. Wang, E. Hehua, J. Kantanen, J. Arjen Lenstra, J. L. Han and M. H. Li, 2017: Genomic reconstruction of the history of native sheep reveals the peopling patterns of nomads and the expansion of early pastoralism in East Asia. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*.

Staff updates

In this edition we welcome the following staff:

- **Hung Nguyen** was appointed ILRI regional representative for East and Southeast Asia starting in June 2017.
- **Chi Nguyen** joined ILRI in Vietnam as regional communications officer in March 2017.

New projects

- **SafePORK** project on food safety interventions in Vietnam is funded by ACIAR.
- **Safe Food, Fair Food** project on food safety assessment in Cambodia is funded by the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems.

Upcoming events

- EcoHealth and zoonotic diseases research writeshop in Da Lat city, Vietnam (28 August–1 September 2017)
- PigRISK project closing workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam (7 September 2017)
- SafePork project inception workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam (8 September 2017)
- PigRisk project writeshop in Ninh Binh Province, Vietnam (19–22 September 2017)
- National Natural Science Foundation of China (NFSC) – ILRI project review meeting in Wuhan, China (18–19 October 2017)
- ILRI livestock research conference and partner meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam (15–16 November 2017)

Contact us at ilri-vietnam@cgiar.org



The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) works to improve food and nutritional security and reduce poverty in developing countries through research for efficient, safe and sustainable use of livestock. Co-hosted by Kenya and Ethiopia, it has regional or country offices and projects in East, South and Southeast Asia as well as Central, East, Southern and West Africa. ilri.org



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ILRI thanks all donors that globally support its work through their contributions to the [CGIAR Trust Fund](#).

Patron: Professor Peter C Doherty AC, FAA, FRS

Animal scientist, Nobel Prize Laureate for Physiology or Medicine—1996

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